

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-35 were pending in the application. Claims 2, 9, 16, 17, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 18, and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 101 REJECTIONS

Claims 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant has amended the claims as recommended by the examiner in order to facilitate speedy allowance of the present application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTIONS AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-14, 16-18, and 21-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,993,570 to the same assignee as the present application. Additionally, claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 19, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While applicant does not necessarily agree with all of the above rejections, Applicant has amended each of the claims to incorporate subject matter deemed allowable in order to speed allowance of the present application. Accordingly, Applicant believes all claims to be in condition for allowance.

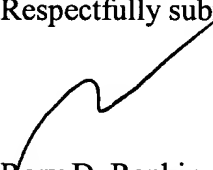
Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes issues remain which would prevent the application from proceeding to allowance, the below signed representative requests a telephone interview at (512) 853-8866 to facilitate a resolution.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5181-78400\RDR

Respectfully submitted,



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